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# TV Film for the Honorable Mike Mansfield on Behalf of 1959 MS Hope Chest

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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Public Relations Department  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
257 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.  
ORegon 4-4100

Suggested 4-minute-20-second TV film for the Honorable Mike Mansfield,  
Senator from Montana, on behalf of the 1959 MS HOPE CHEST.

SET: The office set in the Senate film studio.

PROPS: MS canister, MS poster, MS HOPE CHEST and MS banner in view.

Senator Mansfield is sitting behind the desk. Mrs. Patricia Hitchcock and  
her son Billy are seated beside him.

SENATOR MANSFIELD

Hello. I'd like to talk to you about a subject that is of great  
importance to the people of <sup>the Treasure State</sup> our state. It is multiple sclerosis.  
Many of you may have first hand knowledge of this disease because  
it afflicts a quarter of a million people in our country. Those  
of you who have a relative, friend or an acquaintance who is  
suffering from multiple sclerosis know how far reaching the effects  
of this chronic, crippling disease are. Because MS hits so hard  
at people in the twenty-to-forty age group, its impact on the home, the  
family, and the community is a tragic one. With me here in the  
studio are Mrs. Patricia Hitchcock and her son Billy. Nice to have  
you here, Mrs. Hitchcock...and you, too, Billy.

MRS. HITCHCOCK & BILLY

(AD LIB ANSWER)

SENATOR MANSFIELD

Mrs. Hitchcock is a multiple sclerosis patient. You probably remember  
her as MS Mother of the Year in 1957. I happen to know her son Billy

(more)

SENATOR MANSFIELD (CONTD)

quite well because he is a page boy in the Senate. (POINTS TO MS POSTER) Mrs. Hitchcock, that MS Poster Girl says, "I never dreamed it could happen to me." I suppose that's the reaction of most people who are stricken with MS?

MRS. HITCHCOCK

Senator Mansfield...I'm sure that's the reaction of all MS victims. Multiple sclerosis strikes suddenly...and it can strike anyone anywhere. And when it strikes, it usually comes to stay.

SENATOR MANSFIELD

I understand that the cause of MS is not known...and so far, there's no known cure?

MRS. HITCHCOCK

That's right. There is as yet no treatment that will halt or control the disease itself, but in many cases its symptoms can be "managed." Physical therapy has often proved helpful. But in the long run, we must look to medical and scientific research to conquer MS.

SENATOR MANSFIELD

And that brings us to the subject of finding ways and means to support that research.

MRS. HITCHCOCK

Yes....and we can do that through the MS HOPE CHEST.

SENATOR MANSFIELD

Billy...I seem to remember that you recently worked for the MS HOPE CHEST in a rather individual way. You staged a boxing match, didn't you?

(more)



BILLY

Yes, sir. It wasn't anything big. It was just my friends and I....we put on a boxing contest and charged nickels and dimes.

SENATOR MANSFIELD

I'm sure it helped...and I know your mother was proud of you. Mrs. Hitchcock, do you happen to know how many clinics for MS patients there are in the United States?

MRS. HITCHCOCK

Yes. The annual report of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society lists 40 clinics in the U.S., of which 31 are supported in whole or in part by its chapters with MS HOPE CHEST funds.

SENATOR MANSFIELD

And that's why it is so important to attack this problem at the local level. Speaking for ~~our own~~ <sup>my</sup> state of Montana, I have been in touch with my good friend William T. Boone of Missoula, who is Vice President of the Western Montana Multiple Sclerosis Chapter and he tells me that there are many MS patients in Western Montana alone, the area covered by the Chapter, and many more in the state, we know, though no complete census has yet been made. The Western Montana Chapter is a new Chapter, still in the throes of getting well organized, but they have already helped several needy patients with medical attention, therapy, wheel chairs, etc. They have also cooperated with the U.S. Public Health Service in a research project concerned with the incidence of MS in various parts of the country, Missoula county being one of the key localities given a complete survey.

(more)

MRS. HITCHCOCK

It's obvious that the people of Montana intend to do their full share in this fight. How many multiple sclerosis patients are there in your state, Senator Mansfield?

SENATOR MANSFIELD

We know there are hundreds of victims in Montana presently suffering from MS. As scientific research shows, the heaviest incidence of MS is in Northern climates such as our state. However I really can't tell you how many MS patients are in our state until the survey is finished.

MRS. HITCHCOCK

I certainly hope your Montana chapter will be able to raise the funds it needs to carry out those wonderful plans.

SENATOR MANSFIELD

I'm sure it will. Thank you, Mrs. Hitchcock, for joining me on behalf of the MS HOPE CHEST. And you too, Billy. In conclusion, I want to urge everyone in ~~my home state~~ of Montana to get behind the 1959 MS HOPE CHEST. (POINTS TO MS CANISTER AND POSTER) When you see those MS canisters...give all you can to help. Remember those disabled MS victims who are depending on you. Your generosity will make you feel better and will make our state a better place for all who live in it. Thank you.